

Kearnsburg March 17 1846

Mrs J. H. Butler,

My dear Madam,

Your friendly letter and your cordial invitation to the girls, have been read and re read and highly appreciated by us all. If I were not on this St Patrick's day, like your Valley chilled, not by the storms of winter, but by the raging of business I might, as I ought to, say some pretty things, for your letter is "after my own heart". But how can you look for a tender thought, a glowing image or a gentle aspiration to arise, where every generous sentiment is buried deep under the consideration of all sorts of law, applications for office and impatience for pardon. Had your letter arrived after the adjournment of the Legislature, I might have been able feelingly to respond, as it is I must make a sort of business answer. Our daughter Elizabeth and our dear friend Rebecca McRobbin fear they cannot visit the Valley this spring. For myself I am in favor of their going. All I regret is that you did not ask me to come along.

You say you do not ask for office, I trust I trust you will have the goodness to present the inclosed to my friend your brother Col. Geo. W. Hollenback, and ask him to oblige me by accepting it as a testimony of my respect for him.

Here come more bills and applications! Pardon me for breaking off abruptly. The girls, mother and all feel join in hearty thanks for your kindness and in compliments to you and your whole family. Present me cordially to Mr & Mrs Hollenback.

Very respectfully Your friend

Wm R. Strickland

Francis R. Shunk
to
Mrs S. H. Benton
March 17 - 1846.